

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of the above amendment, claims 139-156 will be pending and under consideration. Claims 129, 130, and 135-138 have been canceled, without prejudice, and represented as claims 139-156. Support for claims 145-156 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, for example on page 17 and original claims 4-7. Claims 128, and 131-134 have been withdrawn from consideration. As a preliminary note, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for providing the initialed PTO Form 1449 with the present Office Action.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the claim of priority for reciting an attorney docket number, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the amendment filed September 19, 2003, in which the claim of priority was amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and acknowledgment of the present claim for priority.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 129, 130 and 135-138 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) allegedly as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,645,985 to Froehler et al. (the "Froehler Patent"). The Office Action acknowledges that the rejection is applicable because the priority claim has been denied. Applicants traverse this rejection and note that in view of Applicants' claim of priority, the

Froehler Patent is not a proper prior art reference.¹ Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 129 and 130 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) allegedly as being anticipated by WO 88/10264 to Haralambidis et al (the "Haralambidis reference"). Applicants do not concur. However, solely for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 135-138 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over the Haralambidis reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,079,352 to Gelfand et al. (the "Gelfand Patent"). Applicants submit that the Haralambidis reference does not disclose or suggest the present claims and the deficiencies are not remedied by the Gelfand Patent. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

¹ Both the present application and the Froehler Patent claim priority to the same application, now U.S. Patent No. 5,484,908.

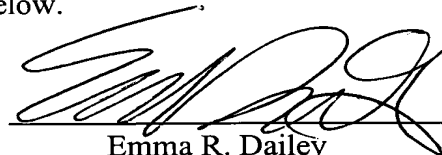
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PATENT

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the foregoing constitutes a *bona fide* attempt to advance prosecution and that the present claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or remaining issues, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact her at the number below.

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Emma R. Dailey
Registration No: 48,491

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439